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OPERATION BEACHHEAD

NASHUA MAN SENTENCED IN COCAINE TRAFFICKING CASE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE: United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, NH State Police Colonel Gary Sloper and the Drug Enforcement Agency New England Field Division Special Agent in Charge Mark Trouville announced today that, Michael Gingras, age 43, of 8 Broad Street, Nashua, New Hampshire was sentenced this morning in United States District Court in Concord pursuant to an indictment charging him with conspiracy to distribute 500 grams or more of cocaine.

Gingras was sentenced by Judge Steven McAuliffe to a term of incarceration of 46 months and a term of supervised release of four years. As part of his plea agreement, Michael Gingras agreed to abandon his claim to certain assets which are subject to forfeiture, including his residence at 8 Broad Street, Nashua, and two investment accounts which were worth approximately \$18,000 when they were seized nearly two years ago. The forfeiture will be finalized in a parallel civil forfeiture action.

In commenting on the plea, US Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case is an outstanding example of how the use of electronic surveillance and the close cooperation of federal, state and local law enforcement allowed us to bring to justice an individual who had dealt cocaine with impunity for over a decade."

This case is part of "Operation Beachhead," which was an investigation lead by the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) of drug trafficking in the Nashua and Seacoast areas. The investigation was conducted by the New Hampshire State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit, the DEA Mobile Enforcement Team (Boston) and the Nashua Police Department with the assistance of the Hampton (NH) Police Department, the Internal Revenue Service and the New Hampshire Drug Task Force.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Mark Irish, Jean Weld and Clyde Garrigan.